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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Items 34, 35, 42, 55, 79, 86, 92 and
148 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
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AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE
ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 7 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Arabic text of the communiqué issued by the Ministerial Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council at its forty-eighth session, held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 5 and 6 September 1993 (see annex).

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* A/48/150 and Corr.1.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 34, 35, 42, 55, 79, 86, 92 and 148 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Final communiqué concerning results of the work of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council during their meeting at the headquarters of its secretariat at Riyadh on 19 and 20 Rabi' I A.H. 1414 (5 and 6 September A.D. 1993)

The Ministerial Council held its forty-eighth session on 19 and 20 Rabi' I A.H. 1414 (5 and 6 September A.D. 1993) at the headquarters of its secretariat at Riyadh, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Rashid Bin Abdullah al-Noaimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates and Chairman of the current session of the Ministerial Council, in the presence of all its members, as follows:

His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Mr. Yousef Bin Al-Alawi Bin Abdulla, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman;

His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar;

His Excellency Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Kuwait.

The Council conveyed its heartfelt congratulations to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul-Aziz, and to the noble people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of the promulgation in that country of the statute governing the auspicious consultation process and the appointment of members to the Consultative Council. It expressed the hope that this historic step would be crowned with full success and help to strengthen the comprehensive process of advancement currently under way in the Kingdom in all spheres.

The Ministerial Council reviewed the latest regional and international developments and considered the situation in the region in the light of the Iraqi regime's continued procrastination in implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions concerning its aggression against the State of Kuwait. The Council condemns the Iraqi regime for its dilatory tactics, prevarication, threats and violation of the terms of the cease-fire laid down by Security Council resolution 687 (1991), as well as for its continued assertion of expansionist claims against the State of Kuwait, hints of renewed aggression, refusal to accept Security Council resolution 833 (1993), which confirms the boundary between Kuwait and Iraq, and persistent threats to security and stability in the region. The Council reaffirms its full support for the State of Kuwait, in conformity with the principle of collective security.

The Council also reaffirms its constant position regarding the need for Iraq to implement all the relevant Security Council resolutions and all the articles of resolution 687 (1991), including those relating to the release of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, the recognition of the international boundary between Kuwait and Iraq, the payment of compensation, the return of all stolen property and the facilitation of the tasks of the international inspection teams entrusted with the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq should undertake not to commit or support any acts of terrorism or sabotage. The Ministerial Council urges the international community to maintain its pressure on the Iraqi regime until such time as it fulfils all its international obligations under the terms of the cease-fire and of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

While reaffirming its absolute attachment to the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, the Council places full responsibility on the Iraqi regime for the bloody repression to which the fraternal Iraqi people has been subjected and for any other human suffering it may be experiencing as a result of that regime's practices and its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991), which deal with Iraq's needs in respect of foodstuffs and medicine.

The Council also reviewed developments in the relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran and reaffirmed its constant position of support for the United Arab Emirates and endorsement of its sovereignty over its three islands, Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb. The Ministerial Council reiterates its unequivocal support for all measures and peaceful means that may be adopted by the United Arab Emirates to recover its sovereignty over its islands and expresses the hope that the dialogue between the two countries will lead to a resolution of all matters pending between them.

The Ministerial Council is closely following developments in the Middle East peace process. It expresses its satisfaction at the resumption of bilateral negotiations in the eleventh round and affirms the contents of its statement of 5 September 1993, which welcomes the draft agreement reached by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel as a first step towards a just, lasting and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), the principle of land for peace, the achievement of a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and from Jerusalem first and foremost, the guaranteeing of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to self-determination, and the establishment of firm foundations on which to guarantee security and stability in the Middle East.

The Council reaffirms its continued support for peace efforts undertaken in conformity with agreed foundations and principles and keenly hopes that the negotiations will produce substantial progress in all fields, thus moving the peace process forward.

The Council also considered the situation in Somalia. It expresses its deep regret and concern at the continued deterioration of security conditions in that country and affirms its attachment to the unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Somalia. It urges the brethren in

Somalia to endeavour to facilitate the task of the United Nations, to cooperate with international efforts to establish security and stability there and to combine their efforts to bring about national unity. It reaffirms its sympathy for the Somali people and its hope that security and stability will be restored in that fraternal country, while reaffirming that the nations of the Cooperation Council will stand by Somalia in its painful ordeal.

The Ministerial Council also discussed the deteriorating situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It expresses its grave concern and displeasure at the continued severe human suffering of that country's people as a result of persistent evil Serbian aggression and the perpetration by Serbian forces, supported by Serbia and Montenegro, of the most brutal crimes against humanity in Bosnia, as well as their violation of United Nations instruments and challenge to international legality.

The Council meanwhile vigorously deplores and condemns the attempts by both Serbs and Croats to impose a fait accompli and to extract territorial gains by imposing an unjust settlement on the Republic of Bosnia at the Geneva Conference. The Ministerial Council urges the Security Council and the European Community to take every measure to prevent the rewarding of aggression and the conferring of legitimacy on its results and products. It calls upon the Security Council to take every necessary measure permitted under Chapter VII, Article 42, of the Charter of the United Nations in order to restore international peace and security and to oblige the aggressor forces to comply with the resolutions of international legality. The Ministerial Council also urges the Security Council to take all the urgent measures required to enable the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise its right to self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter, including lifting the arms embargo imposed on it. The Council urges the international community to tighten the sanctions and to increase the pressure on Serbia and Montenegro. It also urges the Security Council to intervene immediately to break the siege imposed on the city of Mostar and to establish a safe area there.

The Council reviewed the major economic topics discussed by the specialized ministerial and technical committees since its last session, including efforts to unify customs tariffs and progress made by the technical committees in discussion of that subject, in preparation for the submission of final recommendations to the coming session of the Supreme Council, which is due to be held in Saudi Arabia.

The Council also reviewed developments in negotiations and meetings between the nations of the Cooperation Council and other States and economic associations, particularly the European Community, in the light of results of both the joint ministerial meeting held at Brussels on 11 May 1993 and the meeting of the Joint Committee for Bilateral Cooperation, held at Brussels on 16 July 1993, on the subject of energy and the environment. The Council took note of these developments.